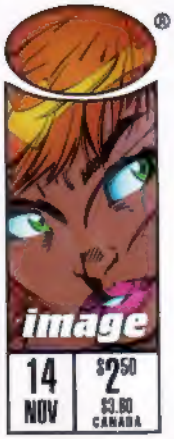
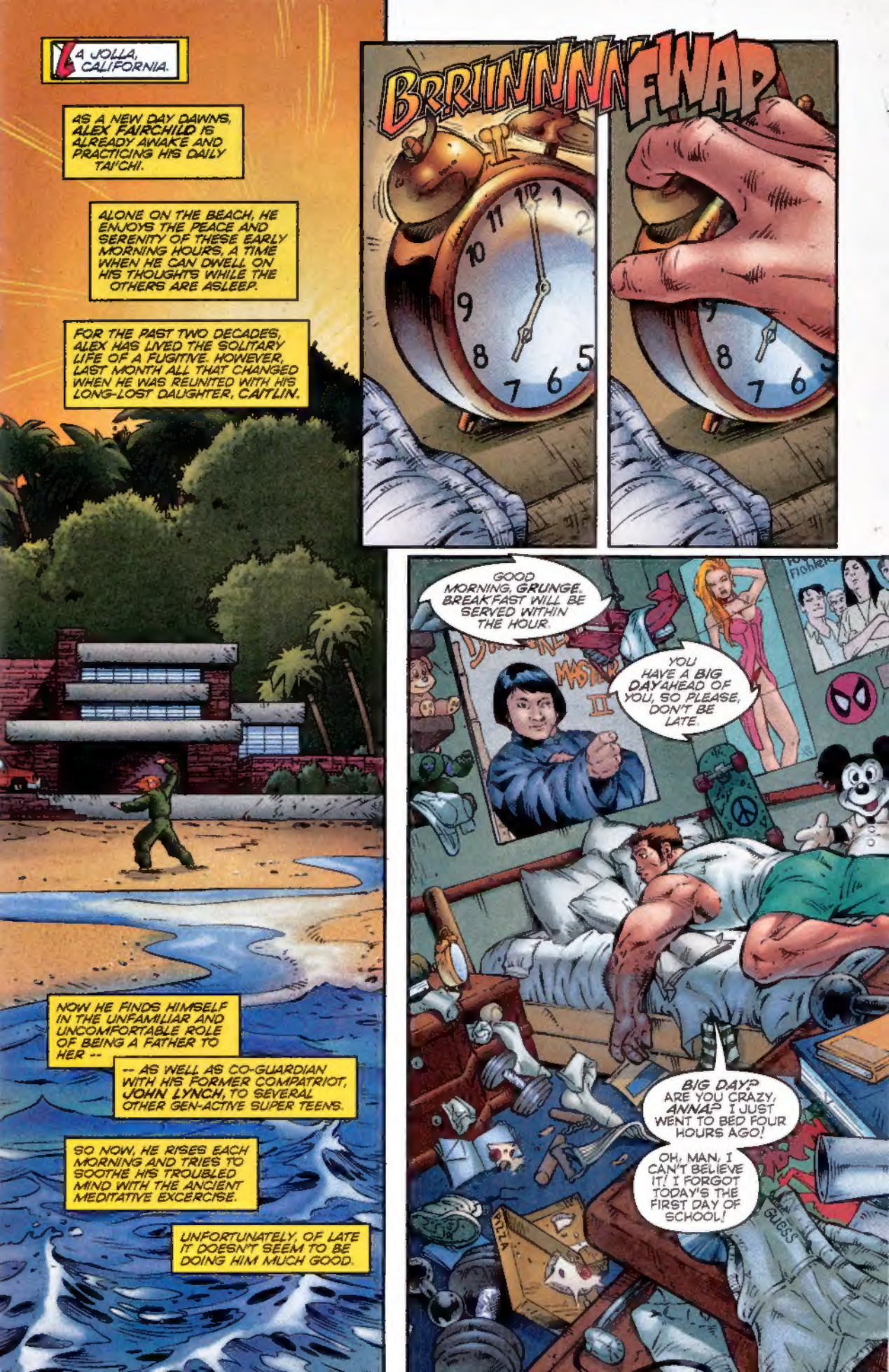


CHOI • ROSS • HOPE

GEN 13


LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA.
AS A NEW DAY DAWNS, ALEX FAIRCHILD IS ALREADY AWAKE AND PRACTICING HIS DAILY TAI'CHI.
ALONE ON THE BEACH, HE ENJOYS THE PEACE AND SERENITY OF THESE EARLY MORNING HOURS, A TIME WHEN HE CAN DWELL ON HIS THOUGHTS WHILE THE OTHERS ARE ASLEEP.
FOR THE PAST TWO DECADES, ALEX HAS LIVED THE SOLITARY LIFE OF A FUGITIVE. HOWEVER, LAST MONTH ALL THAT CHANGED WHEN HE WAS REUNITED WITH HIS LONG-LOST DAUGHTER, CAITLIN.
NOW HE FINDS HIMSELF IN THE UNFAMILIAR AND UNCOMFORTABLE ROLE OF BEING A FATHER TO HER --
-- AS WELL AS CO-GUARDIAN WITH HIS FORMER COMPATRIOT, JOHN LYNCH, TO SEVERAL OTHER GEN-ACTIVE SUPER TEENS.
SO NOW, HE RISES EACH MORNING AND TRIES TO SOOTHE HIS TROUBLED MIND WITH THE ANCIENT MEDITATIVE EXCERCISE.
UNFORTUNATELY, OF LATE IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE DOING HIM MUCH GOOD.
BRRIINNNNG
FWAP
GOOD MORNING, GRUNGE. BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED WITHIN THE HOUR.
YOU HAVE A BIG DAY AHEAD OF YOU, SO PLEASE, DON'T BE LATE.
BIG DAY? ARE YOU CRAZY, ANNA? I JUST WENT TO BED FOUR HOURS AGO!
OH, MAN, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I FORGOT TODAY'S THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

PRINTED IN CANADA

HOPE YOU LEFT ME PLENTY OF HOT WATER --
-- BECAUSE I DON'T THINK I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO NEED ANOTHER COLD SHOWER.
SLAM
FOOSH!
FOOSH!
FOOSH!
COLD SHOWER... YEAH, RIGHT.
NEED TO COOL DOWN. I...
AAAGH! I NEED TO COOL DOWN!
YEEEOW!
HER NAME IS ROXANNE SPAULDING.
A SLAVE TO THE LATEST FASHION TREND, SHE GOES THROUGH ENOUGH WARDROBE CHANGES FOR THE ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD. AGAIN...
ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO WITH THE FLY GIRL LOOK.
...AND AGAIN...
NO. L.A. CHIC. DEFINITELY.
...AND AGAIN.
WHAT WAS I THINKING?! THIS OUTFIT IS A DIME!
HMMM, THEN AGAIN...

DOWNSTAIRS IN HIS PRIVATE OFFICE, JOHN LYNCH MONITORS THE LATEST LOCAL AND NATIONAL HEADLINE NEWS.

TODAY THE MacARTHUR FOUNDATION LAUNCHES A MAJOR RESEARCH EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA IN ORDER TO STUDY THE DETERIORATING CONDITION OF THE OZONE LAYER.

...WHILE THERE IS BUILDING CONGESTION ON SOUTH BOS, TRAFFIC IS STILL MOVING AT A GOOD CLIP...

YEAAAGH! LET ME IN, SARAH!

I'M JUST ABOUT FINISHED, SIR. WILL YOU AND Mr. FAIRCHILD BE JOINING THE CHILDREN THIS MORNING?

HOW'S BREAKFAST GOING, ANNA?

I'M AFRAID NOT. ALEX IS OFF DOING HIS MORNING WORKOUT AND I HAVE SOME WORK TO DO.

IN LOCAL NEWS, ANOTHER COLLEGE STUDENT HAS BEEN REPORTED MISSING.

EARLY THIS MORNING, THE ROOMMATE OF TRICIA ROBERTS NOTIFIED POLICE OF HER DISAPPEARANCE WHEN Ms. ROBERTS FAILED TO RETURN FROM HER PART-TIME JOB AT A NEARBY MALL.

IF CONFIRMED, SHE WILL BE THE THIRD UNIVERSITY STUDENT IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS WHO HAS MYSTERIOUSLY VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE.

AS OF THIS HOUR, UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS HAVE DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT.

ANNA, BE SURE TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THE KIDS WHEN YOU TAKE THEM TO SCHOOL.

OF COURSE, SIR.

LYNCH CONTINUES TO WATCH IN WONDER AS ANNA TURNS INTO A BLUR OF MOTION PREPARING HER GOURMET BREAKFAST, EASILY DOING THE WORK OF A DOZEN WOMEN.

JUST ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF HAVING AN ANDROID HOUSEKEEPER.

BUT AS THE SAYING GOES, NO GOOD DEED GOES UNPUNISHED...

...OR, IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, UNAPPRECIATED.

HMMPH!

UGH! HOW CAN YOU EAT THAT DAY-OLD PIZZA FOR BREAKFAST, GRUNGE?

BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS, ROX. JUST WASH IT DOWN WITH A DIET COKE FOR A WELL-BALANCED MEAL.

HEY, THAT'S WHY I STICK TO POWERBARS. GET ALL YOUR DAILY NUTRIENTS IN ONE CONCENTRATED DOSE.

WELL, I THINK ANNA MADE A TERRIFIC BREAKFAST. ALL OF YOU SHOULD REALLY TRY IT.

CONSIDERING HOW MUCH FAT AND CHOLESTEROL MUST BE IN THOSE EGGS, SAUSAGES, AND HASH BROWNS, I'LL PASS.

AND I HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN TO THE PESTICIDES OR ARTIFICIAL HORMONES.

MY POINT EXACTLY. WHY EAT WHEN YOU CAN DRINK AN ENTIRE MEAL WITH ONE THINFAST?

YOU'D ALL BE MUCH BETTER OFF EATING A HEALTHY DIET OF GRAINS AND FRUITS.

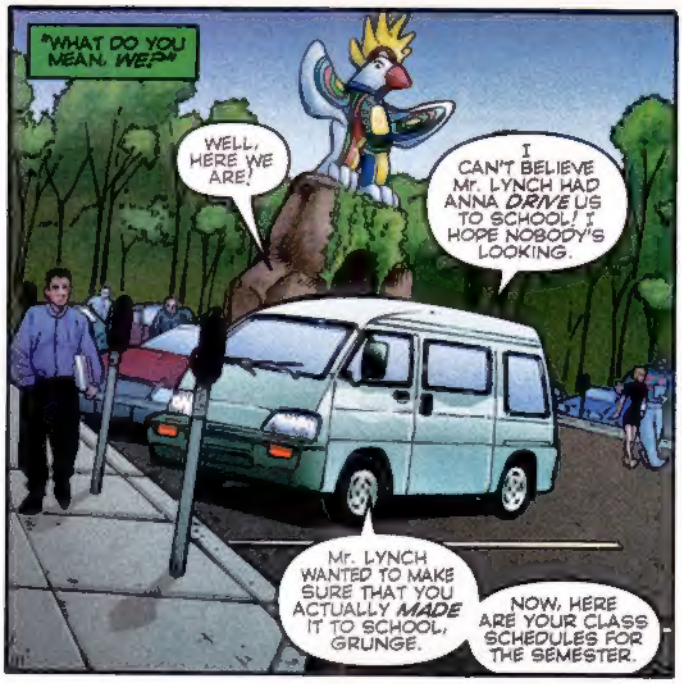
LIGHTEN UP, EARTH MOMMA! I WANT TO ENJOY MY JUNK FOOD WHILE I'M YOUNG!

WITH ALL THAT GARBAGE FLOATING THROUGH YOUR BODY, GRUNGE, YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT PAST PUBERTY.

HMMPH! I GUESS I'LL SIMPLY SAVE THE LEFTOVERS FOR Mr. FAIRCHILD AND Mr. LYNCH.

OH! LOOK AT THE TIME! WE'D BETTER HURRY OR YOU'LL BE LATE FOR SCHOOL!

WEP!



"ALL YOU HAVE TO DO NOW IS NOT DRAW UNDUE ATTENTION TO YOURSELVES...

"...AND STAY OUT OF TROUBLE."

HOW HARD CAN THAT BE?

WHY ARE THOSE GUYS GAWKING AT US?

I DON'T KNOW, KAT. MAYBE THEY'RE NOT USED TO SEEING SIX FOOT TALL AMAZONS WALKING AROUND HERE.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, GRUNGE? THIS IS CALIFORNIA. THESE GUYS SEE THIS STUFF ALL THE TIME. THEY NEVER GET ENOUGH OF IT.

YOUR CLASSES ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN SO YOU'D BETTER GET GOING. I'LL BE BACK TO PICK YOU UP THIS AFTERNOON AROUND FIVE O'CLOCK.

SHE'S DRIVING US HOME, TOO?! THIS IS WAY TOO HUMILIATING!

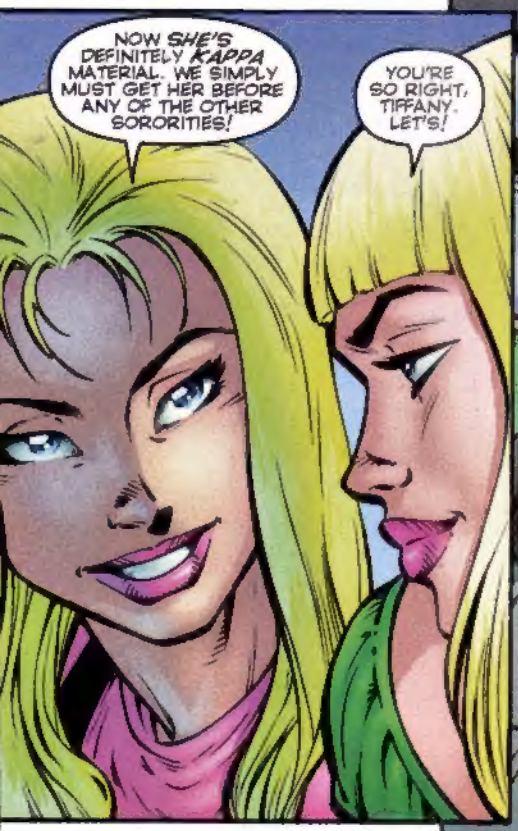
BESIDES, MINI-VANS AREN'T EXACTLY CHICK MAGNETS!

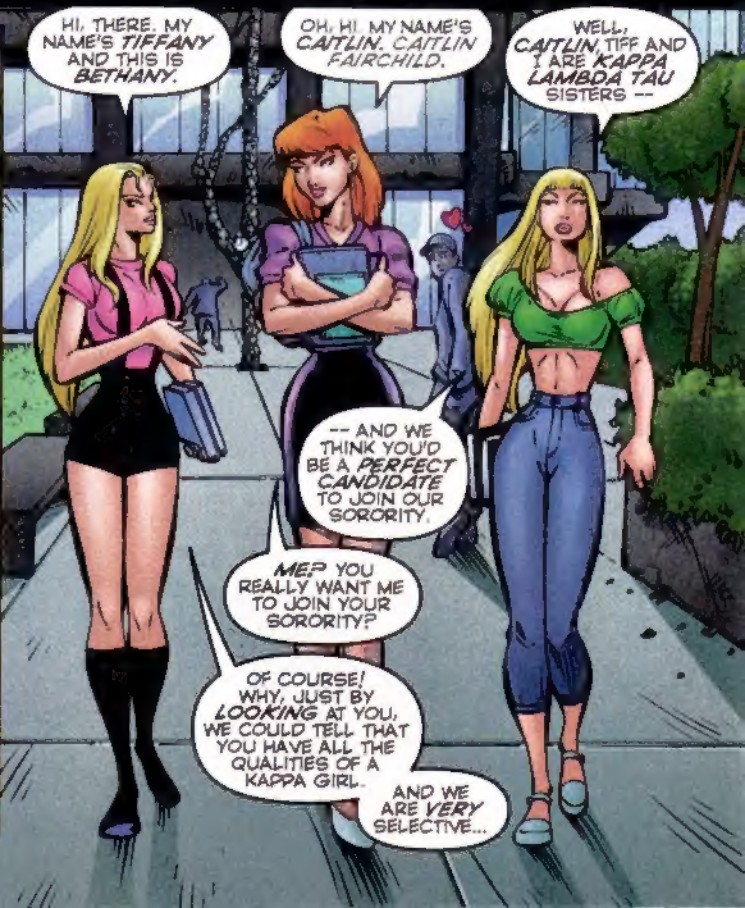
THAT'S WEIRD. ACCORDING TO THIS SHEET, MR. L SIGNED ME UP FOR A MOVIE CLASS.
IS HE TRYING TO TELL ME THAT I'M SOME KINDA DRAMA QUEEN?!
YO! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE STEPPIN', LITTLE SISTER!
WHUMP
UNNGH!
YA BETTER GET BACK TO THE NURSERY, BABY!
HAW!
DUMB JOCKS!
LET'S SEE IF THEY'LL STILL BE LAUGHING WHEN I HANG THEM UP BY THEIR SHORTS ON THE NEAREST FLAGPOLE!
THOSE GUYS WERE COMPLETE JERKS.
HERE, CAN I GIVE YOU A HAND?
DAMN STRAIGHT! AND WHO THE --
OH!
NO, I'M FINE!
I--I JUST GOTTA GET MY BOOKS.
"ADVENTURES IN THE SCREEN TRADE"? LOOKS LIKE WE'RE BOTH IN SCORPOLIA'S FILM CLASS.
HERE, LET ME HELP YOU UP. WE'RE BOTH RUNNING LATE AND I HEAR HE CAN BE REAL TOUGH.
WELL, THE TWO OF YOU MUST BE ROXANNE SPAULDING AND GARETH BANE SINCE EVERYONE ELSE IS ACCOUNTED FOR.
I'M SO HAPPY YOU BOTH COULD FINALLY JOIN US.
WHAT'S WITH THESE KIDS? DON'T THEY EVER GO OUT IN THE SUN?
WHAT'D YOU EXPECT? THIS IS A FILM CLASS.

ELSEWHERE ON CAMPUS...
HOW ABOUT HER, BETHANY?
EWWW, TIFFANY! LOOK AT THOSE COTTAGE CHEESE THIGHS!

WELL, I GIVE UP. THERE ISN'T A SINGLE GIRL ON CAMPUS THIS YEAR I'D WANT TO --
HOLD IT!
CHECK OUT THE ONE WHO JUST CAME OUT OF THE LIBRARY!

HMMM! SHE DOES HAVE THE LOOK, DOESN'T SHE?
AND JUST LOOK AT THE REACTIONS OF ALL THE GUYS!
WHMPH!
WOW!
HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
WHOOOOAA!
UNNGH!
UNNGH!
HUNNGH!


NOW SHE'S DEFINITELY KAPPA MATERIAL. WE SIMPLY MUST GET HER BEFORE ANY OF THE OTHER SORORITIES!
YOU'RE SO RIGHT, TIFFANY. LET'S!


HI, THERE. MY NAME'S TIFFANY AND THIS IS BETHANY.
OH, HI. MY NAME'S CAITLIN. CAITLIN FAIRCHILD.
WELL, CAITLIN, TIFF AND I ARE KAPPA LAMBDA TAU SISTERS --
-- AND WE THINK YOU'D BE A PERFECT CANDIDATE TO JOIN OUR SORORITY.
ME? YOU REALLY WANT ME TO JOIN YOUR SORORITY?
OF COURSE! WHY, JUST BY LOOKING AT YOU, WE COULD TELL THAT YOU HAVE ALL THE QUALITIES OF A KAPPA GIRL.
AND WE ARE VERY SELECTIVE...

"...UNLIKE SOME OF THE OTHER GREEK ORGANIZATIONS."
UH-OH! THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD!
RELAX, BILLY! JUST GET INTO IT! WE'RE PLEDGING THE DELTA IOTA KAPPAS, DUDE. THEY'RE THE BEST FRATERNITY ON CAMPUS.
LIKE THEY SAY, GO GREEK OR GO HOME!
I'VE JUST GOTTA GET IN, GRUNGE. MY DAD AND BROTHERS WERE ALL DELTAS. THEY'LL BE ASHAMED OF ME IF I DON'T MAKE IT.
CHILL PILL, BILL. WE'LL BOTH GET IN.
FRONT AND CENTER, GUYS! HERE COMES SPIKE WITH THE FRESH MEAT!
DID HE SAY, FRESH MEAT?! WE'RE SO SCREWED!
HEH-HEH. C'MON, BILLY. WHAT HE MEANT TO SAY WAS FRESHMEN.
BUT THEN AGAIN...
HMMPH!
THEY'RE LOOKIN' MIGHTY SCRAWNY THIS YEAR.
IS THAT ONE ON THE LEFT A KID -- OR SOME KIND OF MIDGET?!
MORE LIKE A CIRCUS FREAK IF YOU ASK ME!
BUT HE'S GOT HIMSELF A PURTY LITTLE MOUTH.
OUTTA MY WAY! I'M THE PLEDGE MASTER FOR THIS CLASS!
RELAX, NEEDLEMEISTER! NOBODY'S TOUCHED 'EM YET!
AND THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GONNA STAY. THEIR BUTTS ARE MINE!
BETTER HURRY. I THINK THE GIMP'S GOT HIS EYE ON THE DWARF.
GULP!
GRUNGE, CAN I GO HOME NOW?

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE CAMPUS KAFFEEHAUS

GREAT NONE OF THE OTHER GUYS DECIDED TO EAT LUNCH TODAY!

THIS PLACE IS *PACKED* I'LL NEVER FIND AN EMPTY SEAT

HEY! *Mr. WEILAND* WANNABE!

PARK YOURSELF OVER THERE THE CHAIR'S EMPTY

UH, THANKS I APPRECIATE IT AND MY NAME'S BOBBY HEY! YOU PLAY GUITAR?

WHAT GAVE IT AWAY?! THE NAME'S *MELISSA*-- BUT MY FRIENDS CALL ME *MEL*.

GOOD WORK BOBBY! THAT'LL IMPRESS HER

REALLY, I'M USUALLY NOT THIS STUPID SWEET LOOKING GUITAR THAT A GUILD?

GOOD EYE. I'M LEARNING *FLAMENCO*. BETWEEN CLASSES, I LIKE TO COME HERE AND STRUM A FEW CHORDS DRINK SOME JAVA

YOU PLAY?

YEAH, A FENDER. SOME FRIENDS AND I USED TO HAVE THIS GARAGE BAND, BUT... THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO

NOW I JUST JAM BY MYSELF WHEN THE HOUSE IS EMPTY

I'VE GOT A LITTLE BAND OF MY OWN, TOO WE CALL OURSELVES *THE SIRENS*.

COOL NAME, MEL I LIKE IT

WE'RE DOING A GIG TOMORROW NIGHT AT THE BIG *FALL FESTIVAL*. DROP BY THE MAIN STAGE AND I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE GIRLS

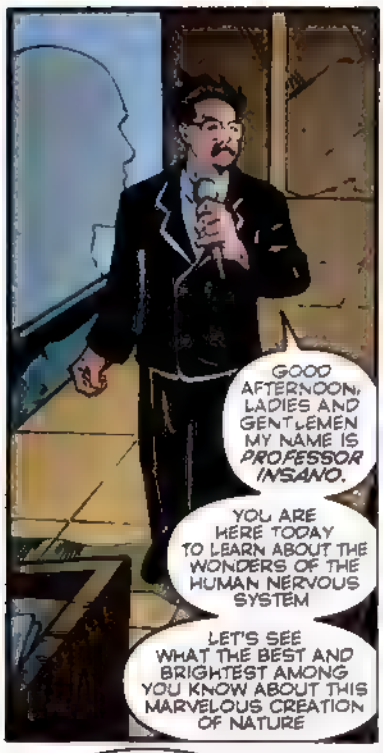
WHO KNOWS, MAYBE WE'LL DO A LITTLE IMPROMPTU JAM SESSION

REALLY? THAT'D BE GREAT! AND THANKS!

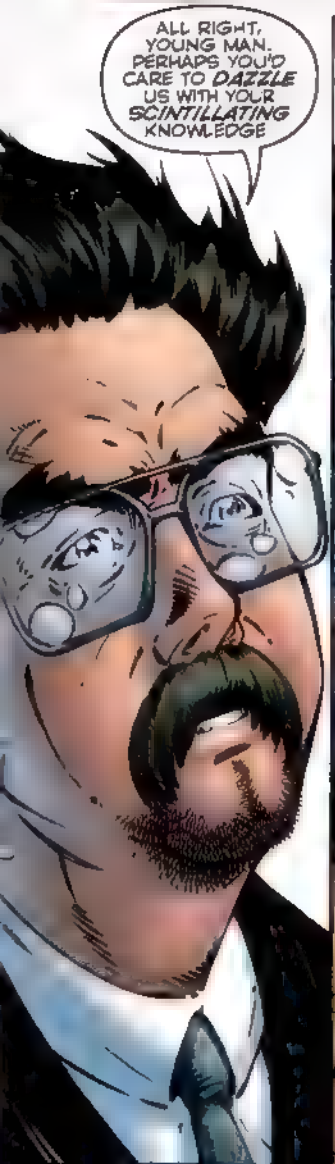
I'LL BE THERE

THE UCSD QUAD
PLEASE! WE NEED ALL OF YOU TO JOIN US WHEN WE BARRICADE THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT TOMORROW!
IT'S TIME TO GET OUR MESSAGE ACROSS TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS THAT WE WON'T TOLERATE THE INHUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS FOR THE UNIVERSITY'S SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH!
HI! WOULD YOU LIKE ONE OF OUR INFORMATION PAMPHLETS?
IF IT'S GOT YOUR PHONE NUMBER ON IT!
GET A LIFE!
ANIMALS ARE PEOPLE TOO! ANIMALS ARE PEOPLE TOO!
CHECK OUT THE FLOWER CHILDREN!
YO, SARAH! WORK THAT LOST CAUSE, GIRL!
GRUNGE!
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN YOU'D END UP WITH THOSE GREEK NEANDERTHALS!
MAYBE YOU'RE JUST AN ANIMAL LOVER WHO NEEDS TO BE WITH A REAL MAN!
YOU BIG APE! IF THE SCIENTISTS WANT TO USE DUMB ANIMALS FOR THEIR TESTS --
-- THEY SHOULD JUST EXPERIMENT ON YOU!
WHY YOU--!
TAKE IT EASY, BROTHER BIFF! SARAH'S JUST THE OVERLY SENSITIVE TYPE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SOMETIMES, GRUNGE!
YOU REALLY GOT HER ALL WORKED UP
YOU'VE DONE HER, HAVEN'T YOU?!
HUH?!
ALL RIGHT! YOU GET PROPS, PLEDGE!
UH, LOOK GUYS I'VE GOTTA GO TO CLASS
I'LL CATCH YOU LATER!
THERE'S SOMETHING ODD ABOUT THAT GUY TELL THE PLEDGE MASTER TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON HIM

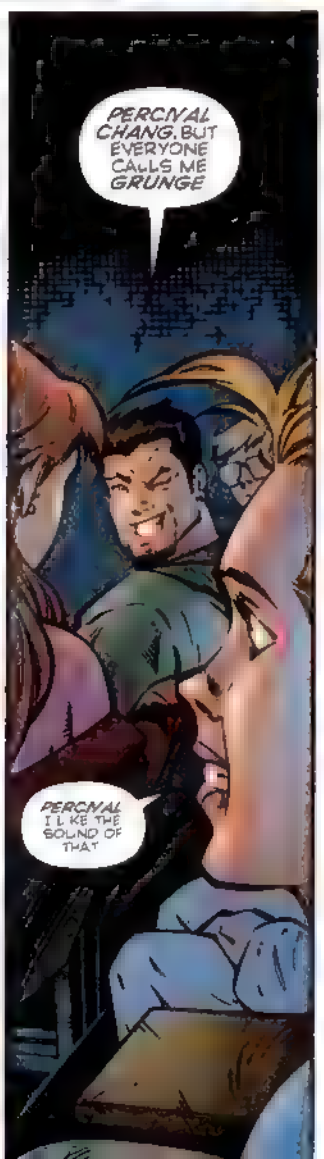
GRUNGE?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? THIS IS A BIOLOGY CLASS!
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE IN WOOD SHOP OR SOMETHING?
NAH THE LYNCH-MAN SIGNED ME UP FOR SOME NEUROLOGY 301 CLASS IT SOUNDS BITCHIN'
I -- I DON'T BELIEVE THIS WE'RE TAKING THE SAME CLASS TOGETHER?!
CRAP! ALL THE BACK SEATS ARE TAKEN
WHOA! CHECK OUT THE BABES! I JUST FOUND MY LAB PARTNERS!
C'MON GRUNGE CLASS IS ABOUT TO START I ALWAYS LIKE TO SIT UP FRONT
HEY KAT DO WE NEED BOOKS FOR THIS CLASS?
WHAT--? YES! THIS IS COLLEGE! OF COURSE WE NEED BOOKS
OH, MAN! I HOPE THEY'VE GOT CLIFF NOTES OR SOMETHING FOR THIS COURSE
HERE, WE CAN SHARE FOR TODAY BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD BUY YOUR OWN TEXTBOOK GETTING THE CLASS SYLLABUS MIGHT HELP TOO!
UH, SURE WHATEVER YOU SAY, KAT
BIOLOGY


GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN MY NAME IS *PROFESSOR INSANO.*
YOU ARE HERE TODAY TO LEARN ABOUT THE WONDERS OF THE HUMAN NERVOUS SYSTEM
LET'S SEE WHAT THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST AMONG YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS MARVELOUS CREATION OF NATURE

CAN ANYONE TELL ME WHAT A *NEURO-TRANSMITTER* IS?
PIECE O' CAKE!
GRUNGE! SHUT UP! HE'S *SERIOUS!*


ALL RIGHT, YOUNG MAN. PERHAPS YOU'D CARE TO *DAZZLE* US WITH YOUR *SCINTILLATING* KNOWLEDGE

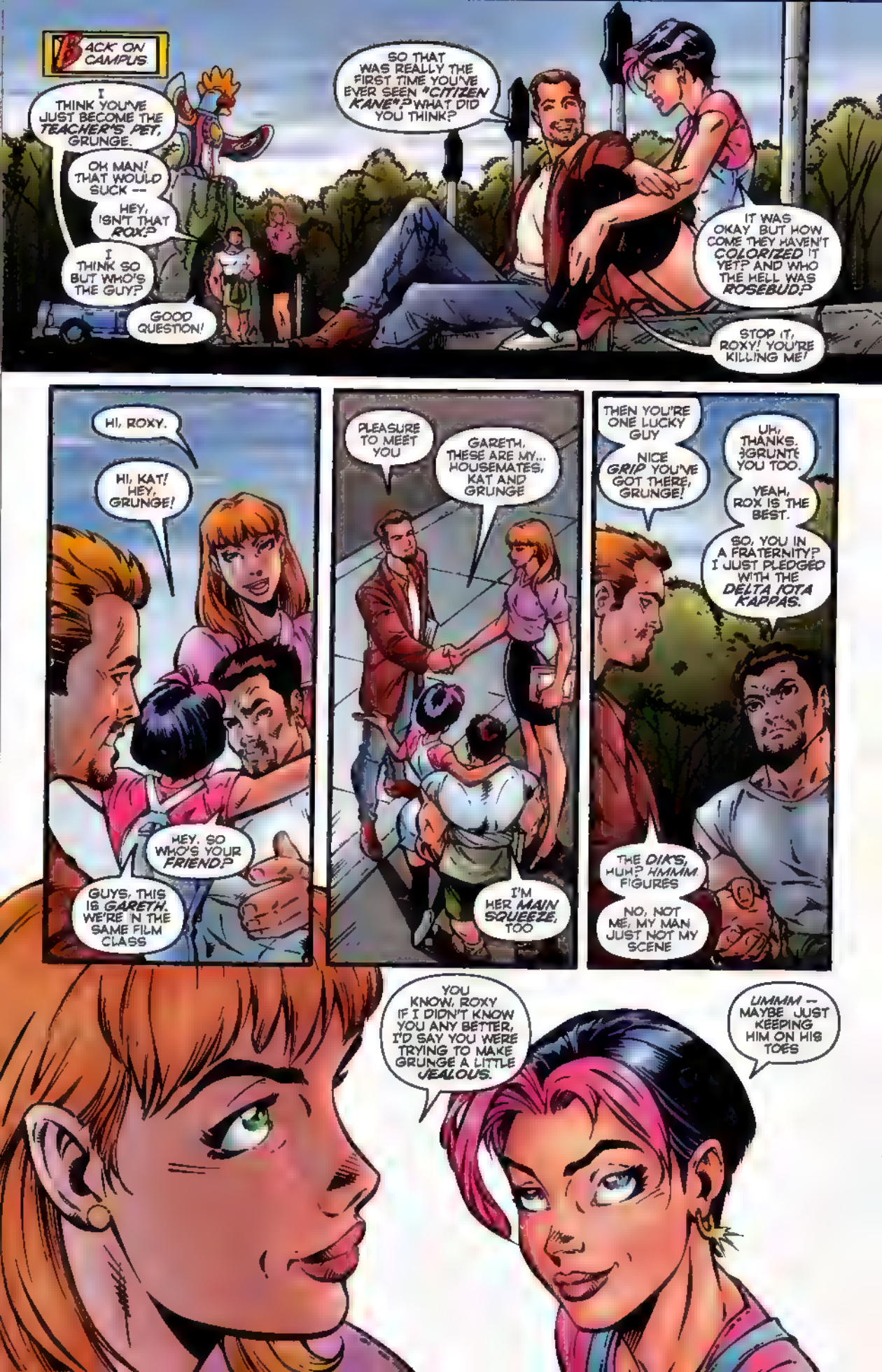
IT'S LIKE THIS *CHEMICAL AGENT* THAT'S RELEASED BY A *NEURON* AT THE END OF ITS *AXON* WHICH DIFFUSES ACROSS THE *SYNAPTIC GAP* AND THEN ACTS UPON A *POSTSYNAPTIC* NEURON, MUSCLE OR GLAND
HUH?
WELL...I'M *IMPRESSED.* VERY GOOD! WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

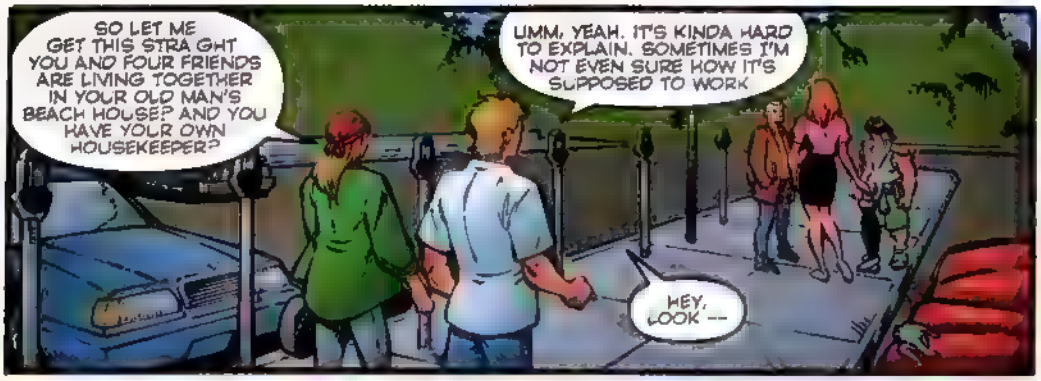

PERCIVAL CHANG. BUT EVERYONE CALLS ME *GRUNGE*
PERCIVAL I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT

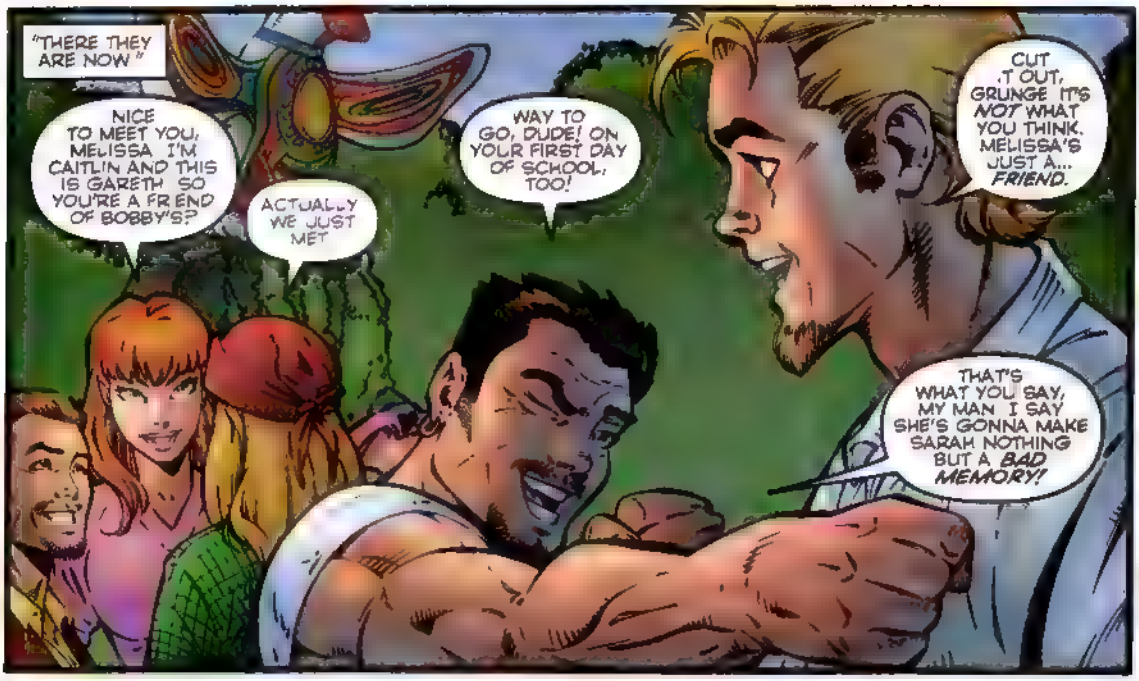
ALL RIGHT! FESS UP! HOW DID YOU KNOW ALL THAT?!
I SAW IT WHEN I WAS FLIPPING THROUGH YOUR BOOK
I'VE GOT THIS *PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY* THING

IT'S CALLED THE ISLAND OF GAMORRA
WHILE FAR FROM A TOURIST ATTRACTION, THE ISLAND IS STILL ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR HAVENS FOR THE MANY PIRATES WHO ROAM THE SURROUNDING WATERWAYS.
MANY OF THESE SEAFARING RENEGADES COME HERE -- TO A CLUB CALLED KAHUNAS -- SEEKING REFUGE FROM THE LAW, A PLACE TO DRINK AND RELAX.
OTHERS COME IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS.
THE MISTRESS SAID WE'D FIND OUR INFORMANT SOMEWHERE IN THIS RATHOLE.
THERE HE IS, SITTING AT THE BAR.
HEY! SOMEBODY SHUT THAT @&#% DOOR! I'M FEELIN' A DRAFT BLOW N' UP MY BUTT!
YOU'RE GOING TO FEEL A WHOLE LOT WORSE, PYGMY --
-- IF I DON'T GET THE ANSWERS I'M LOOKING FOR.
WHAM
AAARRGH!
NOW, PYGMY, I'M GOING TO ASK YOU ONE SIMPLE QUESTION.
BUT KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS IS AS PAINLESS AS IT GETS FOR YOU.
KRUNCH
AAARRGH!
ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS ONE THING
WHERE CAN I FIND ALEX FAIRCHILD?

FROM THE MOMENT THEY WALKED THROUGH THE DOOR THE FOUR GUNMEN KNEW THAT IT WAS NEVER A QUESTION OF "IF" --
-- BUT ONE OF "WHEN" THEY WOULD GET THE ANSWER THEY WANTED FROM THE PIGMY
NOW, REMEMBER IF YOU'VE LIED TO US, WE'LL BE BACK
ONLY NEXT TIME WE'LL LEAVE YOU IN PIECES...
OF ABOUT A HALF A DOZEN OR SO
OH -- AND JUST ONE MORE THING
YOU NEVER SAW US
. AND WE WERE NEVER HERE

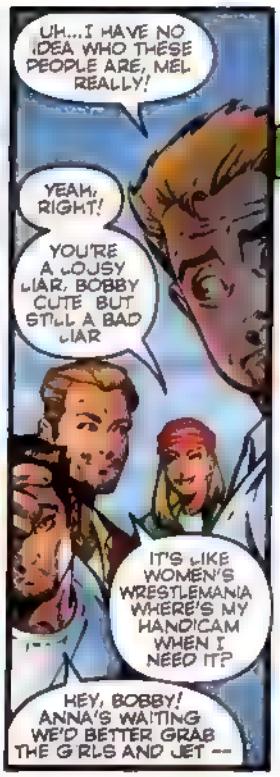

BACK ON CAMPUS
I THINK YOU'VE JUST BECOME THE TEACHER'S PET, GRUNGE.
OH MAN! THAT WOULD SUCK --
HEY, ISN'T THAT ROX?
I THINK SO BUT WHO'S THE GUY?
GOOD QUESTION!
SO THAT WAS REALLY THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE EVER SEEN "CITIZEN KANE"? WHAT DID YOU THINK?
IT WAS OKAY BUT HOW COME THEY HAVEN'T COLORIZED IT YET? AND WHO THE HELL WAS ROSEBUD?
STOP IT, ROXY! YOU'RE KILLING ME!
HI, ROXY.
HI, KAT! HEY, GRUNGE!
HEY, SO WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?
GUYS, THIS IS GARETH. WE'RE IN THE SAME FILM CLASS
PLEASURE TO MEET YOU
GARETH, THESE ARE MY... HOUSEMATES, KAT AND GRUNGE
I'M HER MAIN SQUEEZE, TOO
THEN YOU'RE ONE LUCKY GUY
NICE GRIP YOU'VE GOT THERE, GRUNGE!
UH, THANKS. GRUNTS YOU TOO.
YEAH, ROX IS THE BEST.
SO, YOU IN A FRATERNITY? I JUST PLEDGED WITH THE DELTA IOTA KAPPAS.
THE DIKS, HUH? HMMM. FIGURES
NO, NOT ME, MY MAN JUST NOT MY SCENE
YOU KNOW, ROXY IF I DIDN'T KNOW YOU ANY BETTER, I'D SAY YOU WERE TRYING TO MAKE GRUNGE A LITTLE JEALOUS.
UMMM -- MAYBE JUST KEEPING HIM ON HIS TOES


SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT YOU AND FOUR FRIENDS ARE LIVING TOGETHER IN YOUR OLD MAN'S BEACH HOUSE? AND YOU HAVE YOUR OWN HOUSEKEEPER?
UMM, YEAH. IT'S KINDA HARD TO EXPLAIN. SOMETIMES I'M NOT EVEN SURE HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO WORK
HEY, LOOK --


"THERE THEY ARE NOW"
NICE TO MEET YOU, MELISSA. I'M CAITLIN AND THIS IS GARETH. SO YOU'RE A FRIEND OF BOBBY'S?
ACTUALLY WE JUST MET
WAY TO GO, DUDE! ON YOUR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, TOO!
CUT IT OUT, GRUNGE. IT'S *NOT* WHAT YOU THINK. MELISSA'S JUST A... *FRIEND*.
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY, MY MAN. I SAY SHE'S GONNA MAKE SARAH NOTHING BUT A *BAD MEMORY!*

GRUNGE! WAIT'LL I GET MY HANDS ON YOU!
HOW DARE YOU *HUMILIATE* ME IN FRONT OF YOUR FRAT BUDDIES, YOU IGNORANT SIMIAN!
D'OH!
HEY, CHILL OUT, SARAH! LEAVE HIM ALONE. WHAT BUG CRAWLED UP YOUR BUTT?

HI, KIDS! READY TO GO?
EXCUSE ME! WAS I TALKING TO *YOU?* JUST BACK OFF, ROXANNE!
CUT IT OUT! BOTH OF YOU!
LIKE, WHAT IS YOUR MAJOR *MALFUNCTION* TODAY? A FRUIT AND FIBER *OVERDOSE* FROM BREAKFAST?


UH... I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE, MEL REALLY!
YEAH, RIGHT!
YOU'RE A LOUSY LIAR, BOBBY. CUTE BUT STILL A BAD LIAR
IT'S LIKE WOMEN'S WRESTLEMANIA. WHERE'S MY HANDICAM WHEN I NEED IT?
HEY, BOBBY! ANNA'S WAITING. WE'D BETTER GRAB THE GIRLS AND JET --

"-- OR MR. L'S GONNA HAVE A MAJOR COW!"
I *KNEW* THERE WAS SOMETHING GOING ON BETWEEN THAT GUY AND THAT PETA CHICK
MAKE SURE *NEEDLEMEISTER* STAYS ON HIS CASE

LATER THAT EVENING.
WHERE'S CAITLIN'S FATHER?
ANNA SAID HE HAD SOME *BUSINESS* TO TAKE CARE OF
THANKS AGAIN FOR GETTING US ENROLLED AT THE UNIVERSITY, Mr. LYNCH IT'S BEEN TERRIFIC
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT THINGS ARE GOING WELL
HEY, MR L. YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO KNOW WHO "ROSEBUD" IS, DO YOU?
YOU MUST BE KID --
NO, MAYBE NOT I'LL BUY YOU THE LASER DISC, ROXY
I'M SURE YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT
EVENTUALLY

PARDON ME?
I DON'T RECALL SEEING YOU STAND UP FOR ME.
AND I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS, GRUNGE.
BESIDES, I CAN'T HELP IT IF THOSE SO-CALLED "BRO'S" OF YOURS NEED TO BE PUT IN THEIR PLACE WHEN THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT!
AHH, MAYBE THEY WERE RIGHT AFTER ALL.
YOU TREE-HUGGERS ARE JUST A BUNCH OF EXTREMISTS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYING THIS, BUT I HAVE TO SIDE WITH GRUNGE ON THIS ONE. I BELIEVE HUMAN LIFE IS MORE IMPORTANT.

WELL, IT'S SOMEWHAT TRUE THAT MUCH OF MEDICINE STILL DOESN'T HAVE A RELIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO ANIMAL TESTING. BUT STILL...

I JUST WISH THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO USE CATS OR DOGS OR RABBITS OR MONKEYS...WELL, YOU GET THE IDEA.
I MEAN, THEY'VE GOT FEELINGS, TOO, YOU KNOW.

WELL THEN, PUTTING IT IN PERSPECTIVE, NEED I REMIND YOU ALL WHAT IT FELT LIKE WHEN WE WERE THE "LAB RATS" BACK AT PROJECT: GENESIS?

I DON'T BELIEVE THERE IS A RIGHT ANSWER TO THIS ISSUE.

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT WE'RE WILLING TO LISTEN AND RESPECT EACH OTHER'S OPINION.
BURRRP!
THEN AGAIN, THERE ARE ALWAYS EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULE.

THE REC ROOM.
BUT TIFFANY AND BETHANY SEEMED REALLY NICE.
OH, PLEASE, KAT! I'VE HEARD THAT THEY'RE NOTHING BUT STUCK-UP SOCIETY DEBS. BEAUTIFUL BLONDE BIMBOS WITH BUCKS!
THE KAPPAS WANT YOU?

KAT! YOU'VE GOTTA HOOK US --
-- I MEAN, BOBBY, UP!
YOU ALMOST PULLED OUT OF THAT ONE.

IT LOOKED TO ME LIKE BOBBY ALREADY FOUND HIMSELF A PRETTY LITTLE DISH AT SCHOOL TODAY.
WHAT WAS HER NAME AGAIN --

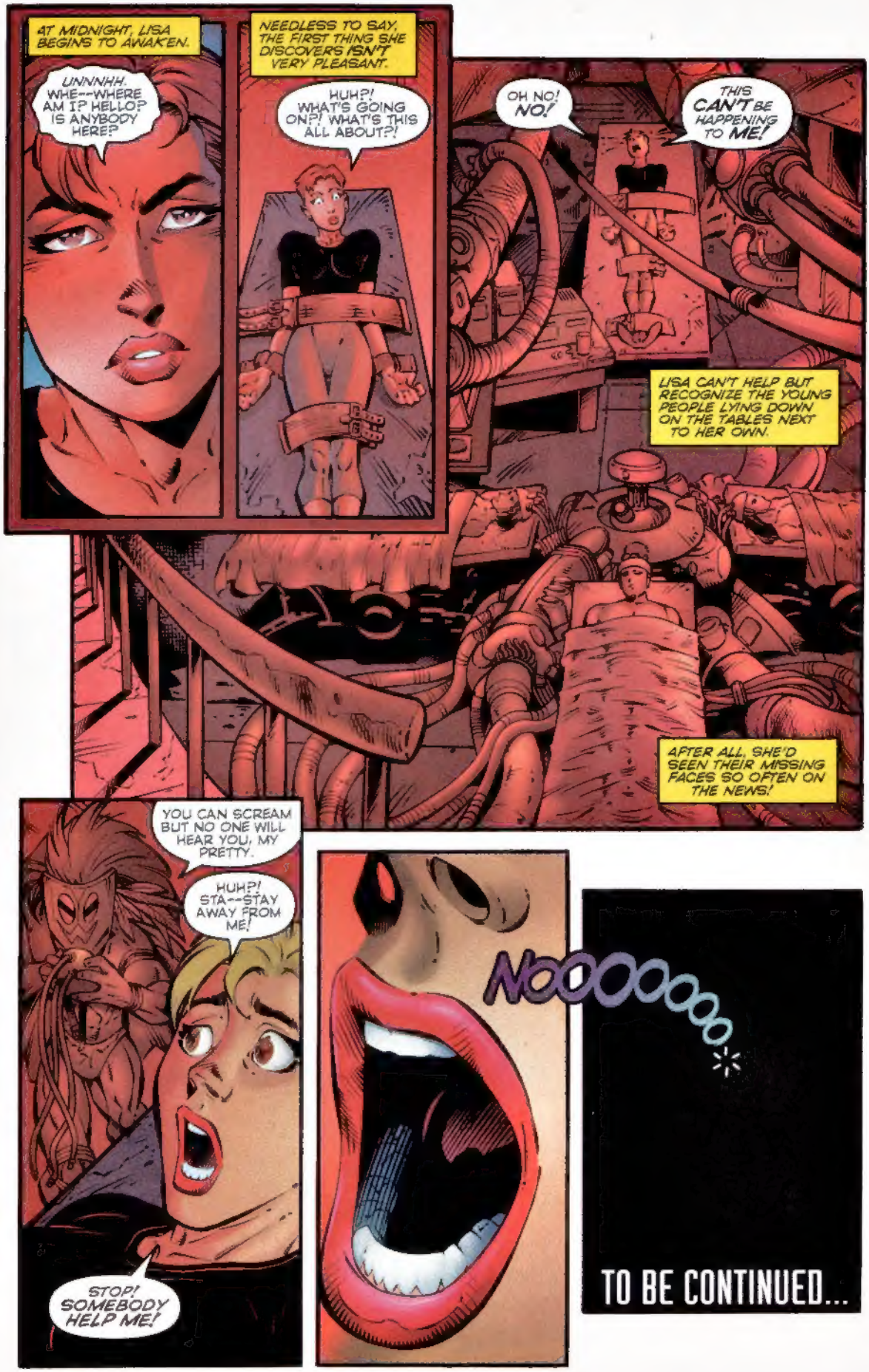
THUMPH
OH!
THAT'S ENOUGH OUT OF YOU, SARAH!
AND HER NAME IS MEL.

I HATE TO SPOIL ALL THE FUN BUT I WOULD HOPE WITH THE COST OF THE TUITION I'M PAYING, YOU'VE ALL GOT SOME HOMEWORK TO DO.
NOT ME! I'M DONE! TUBE TIME!
SAY WHAT?! HOW COULD YOU BE DONE ALREADY?

DID IT ALL ON THE RIDE HOME.
OH YEAH. NEWS FLASH, GUYS. GUESS WHO HAS A "PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY"?
HEY, DON'T HATE ME BECAUSE I'M GIFTED --

SHUT UP!
THUMPH
THUMPH
THUMPH
THUMPH

MEANWHILE...
AFTER A LONG DAY OF CLASSES AND AN ENTIRE EVENING SPENT STUDYING IN THE LIBRARY, LISA CRANE FINALLY HEADS HOME --
-- PICTURING IN HER MIND A CERTAIN YOUNG MAN NAMED PERCIVAL WHOM SHE'D MET EARLIER IN THE DAY IN HER BIOLOGY CLASS. UNFORTUNATELY FOR HER...
THERE SHE IS. YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO!
...OTHERS NEARBY HAVE LESS PEACEFUL THOUGHTS IN MIND!
HEY! TURN OFF YOUR HEADLIGHTS, YOU JERK!
I CAN'T SEE!
HER INSTINCTS TELL HER TO RUN.
BUT SOMEONE HAS ALREADY ANTICIPATED THAT.
THERE IS NO ESCAPE!
NO!
PLEASE! SOMEBODY HELP -- HRRMFF!
SSSLEEEEP!
THIS TIME IS THE LAST TIME!
WE SHALL CONTINUE WITH THIS ENDEAVOR UNTIL WE SUCCEED!


AT MIDNIGHT, LISA BEGINS TO AWAK'EN.
UNNNHH. WHE--WHERE AM I? HELLO? IS ANYBODY HERE?
NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE FIRST THING SHE DISCOVERS ISN'T VERY PLEASANT.
HUH?! WHAT'S GOING ON?! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?!
OH NO! NO!
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING TO ME!
LISA CAN'T HELP BUT RECOGNIZE THE YOUNG PEOPLE LYING DOWN ON THE TABLES NEXT TO HER OWN.
AFTER ALL, SHE'D SEEN THEIR MISSING FACES SO OFTEN ON THE NEWS!
YOU CAN SCREAM BUT NO ONE WILL HEAR YOU, MY PRETTY.
HUH?! STA--STAY AWAY FROM ME!
STOP! SOMEBODY HELP ME!
NOOOOOOOO
TO BE CONTINUED...